

## RELIEF DEMANDS, DUE TO THE COLD, TOO HEAVY FOR THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS TO HANDLE

The inexorable dropping of the temperature, which reached 10 degrees below zero last night, and which the weather bureau says may fall still lower, has intensified the suffering among the poor and unemployed throughout the city, and demands upon the charitable organizations for fuel and food were even greater today than yesterday.

Zero weather is prevailing from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic coast and in its path is taking a heavy toll of death and suffering. All cities along the eastern seaboard are swamped with applications for relief.

Continued cold weather, with even lower temperatures at some points is the prediction of the weather bureau for the central west today. Warning has been sent out to shippers that in the north and northwest temperatures are from 25 to 35 below must be expected, 20 to 30 below in the west, and 20 below to the southwest, and 10 to 15 below to the south and east.

The full force of the terrific cold is just making itself felt, many families who had provisions when the cold period began being forced now to ask aid from the city.

Thursday night's scenes at the municipal lodging house, at McDowell's coffee and bread line and the different police stations were re-enacted last night. Many men who had hoped to obtain shelter at a temporary free lodging house

at Halsted and Lake street were disappointed, as the authorities were unable to prepare the building. It will be thrown open to the homeless tonight.

Freezing weather has brought about an unprecedented condition in the local fire department. The department was called upon to extinguish fires 168 times in the last 24 hours. The men are exhausted, and all the reserves have been placed on duty, and they, too, are giving out. After each blaze the men find their clothes a solid mass of ice. Many have suffered frozen hands and ears.

Last night the police permitted the army of homeless men to sleep in hallways in the downtown district. The regulations were suspended by common consent, and the wanderers were permitted to remain wherever they could find a place to keep warm.

The Children's Aid Society, one of the greatest charities in the city, which annually provides clothing and food for thousands of infant children, today found its resources gone, and was forced to close its offices while a long line of freezing women waited for relief for their little ones.

Five deaths have occurred which are attributable to the cold. There have been a number of accidents caused by the unusual conditions, and over a score of cases of frozen ears, hands or feet have been reported. Private physicians have treated hundreds